

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 13768 01 OF 02 102255Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-07 /020 W
-----102346Z 124341 /13

R 101713Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2659

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 13768

PLS PASS USDOC/DIBA/BIC/OED BEATRICE H. LOUCAS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BDIS, FR
SUBJECT: AMERICAN PAINTERS IN PARIS EXHIBITION

REF: DIBA/BIC/OED MEMO OF APRIL 15, 1977

1. OED MEMO UNDER REFERENCE COVERED COMPLAINT TO USDOC OMBUDSMAN FROM RICHARD LANCE COREY OF BAY SHORE, NEW YORK, ABOUT LOSSES HE SUFFERED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SUBJECT ART EXHIBITION AND COMPETITION HELD IN PARIS DECEMBER 15, 1975 TO JANUARY 15, 1976. EMBASSY HAD ALREADY EXCHANGED SEVERAL LETTERS WITH MR. COREY ON THIS SUBJECT, AND ALSO WITH SOME 15 OTHER US EXHIBITORS WHO SUFFERED LOSSES FROM SAME EVENT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT IN ALL ABOUT 600 AMERICANS PARTICIPATED IN COMPETITION.

2. THIS EXHIBITION WAS ORGANIZED BY "CULTURAL ASSOCIATION FOR PROMOTION OF AMERICAN GRAPHIC ARTS IN PARIS" (ARGRAF), 33 RUE GALILEE, 75116 PARIS, HEADED BY ONE THIERRY IZOARD. EXHIBITION WAS PROMOTED BY BROCHURE DESCRIBING EVENT AS "FINANCED AND SPONSORED" BY FRENCH MINISTRY FOR QUALITY OF LIFE, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TOURISM, PARIS CITY COUNCIL; NATIONAL ART MATERIALS TRADE ASSOCIATION, AIR FRANCE, DUPONT DE UNCLASSIFIED

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NEMOURS, NORTON, CENTRE INTERNATIONAL DE PARIS, AND LEFRANC BOURGEOIS. IN LIGHT OF SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS THIS CLAIM WAS CERTAINLY MISLEADING; NONE OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS HAS ACCEPTED FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY THOUGH SOME HAVE ADMITTED THEY "LENT THEIR NAME" TO PROMOTION OF EVENT. PIERRE SALINGER (OF KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION) APPEARS IN BROCHURE AS "PRESIDENT OF THE

JURY" AND AS PRESUMED AUTHOR OF BRIEF INTRODUCTORY
STATEMENT IN BROCHURE EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR

EXHIBITION.

3. EXPOSITION, IN THE EVENT, PROVED A FIASCO. SITE
SELECTED IS ONE OF MOST EXPENSIVE IN PARIS, TIMING
DURING CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS WAS ILL-CONCEIVED AND
ATTENDANCE WAS SMALL. IZOARD APPARENTLY RAN OUT OF
MONEY AT AN EARLY STAGE, DESPITE ENTRY FEES OF \$200
PER PAINTING, FAILED EVEN TO PAY PREMIUM ON PROMISED
GROUP INSURANCE COVERAGE. MANY PAINTINGS WERE LOST
OR DAMAGED IN TRANSIT BACK TO U.S. FACED WITH CLAIMS
FROM EXHIBITORS, CARRIERS AND OTHERS, IZOARD FILED FOR
BANKRUPTCY IN MARCH 1976 AND WAS AWARDED SAME JUNE 3,
1976. WE UNDERSTAND FROM AN AMERICAN ATTORNEY HERE
THAT COURT DECISION DOES NOT RENDER ARGRAF, IZOARD AND
SPONSORS LEGALLY IMMUNE TO FURTHER CLAIMS AND/OR
CRIMINAL LIABILITY, AND THAT LEGAL CLAIMS COULD BE
PURSUED THROUGH COURTS ON GROUND, FOR EXAMPLE, OF
MALPRACTICE.

4. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES THERE WAS LITTLE EMBASSY COULD

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2660

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 13768

DO BUT REFER PLAINTIFFS TO COURT-APPOINTED
ADMINISTRATOR ANTOINE CHEVRIER, WHO HAS APPARENTLY
BEEN UNABLE TO SATISFY ANY KNOWN AMERICAN CLAIMS THUS
FAR. FOREIGN SERVICE REGULATIONS PRECLUDE US FROM
PLAYING MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN PURSUING PRIVATE CLAIMS

EXCEPT UNDER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON. AS WE SEE IT, THIS IS PRIVATE DISPUTE WHICH CAN BE RESOLVED ONLY THROUGH LEGAL CHANNELS. GOF AGENCIES LISTED IN BROCHURE HAVE ALREADY REFUSED TO ACCEPT FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER ARGRAF ORGANIZERS HAVE ASSETS THAT COULD BE ATTACHED.

5. WE RECOGNIZE IT IS PROBABLY NOT FEASIBLE FOR INDIVIDUAL PLAINTIFFS TO INVOKE LEGAL ACTION WITH SUCH SMALL PROSPECT OF RETURN. ONE POSSIBILITY, HOWEVER, MIGHT BE FOR PLAINTIFFS TO FORM ASSOCIATION AND SUE IZOARD AND/OR OTHER FRENCH "SPONSORS" AS "PARTIE CIVILE" UNDER FRENCH LAW.

6. IF USDOC CONSIDERS THAT FURTHER EMBASSY ACTION IS APPROPRIATE AND DESIRABLE, WE ARE PREPARED TO TAKE SUCH ACTION UNDER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS.

7. COMMERCE IS REQUESTED TO CONVEY FOREGOING NOT ONLY TO MR. COREY, BUT ALSO TO FOLLOWING ATTORNEYS WHO HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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RECENTLY WRITTEN TO EMBASSY IN SIMILAR VEIN ON BEHALF OF CLAIMANT ARTISTS:

FRANK L. CARILLO
MOSS AND MOSS
273 ORANGE STREET
NEW HAVEN, CONN. 06510

GEORGE M. IRELAND
SUITE E, 115 EAST GOODWIN STREET
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA 86301

GAMMON

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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